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Proceedings of the Assembly of the Representative Ryots and Merchants from all Taluks of the Province of Mysore held at Mysore on the 13th October 1883.

The third Annual Meeting of the Representative ryots and merchants of Mysore was held in accordance with previous notice on the 13th October 1883 at 3 in the afternoon, the Dewan K. Sheshadri Iyer, Esq., presiding. There were present Mr. Lyall, the British Resident at the Court of Mysore, the Councillors to His Highness the Maharaja, the Chief Judge, the Consulting Engineer and other chief officers of the Mysore State. The number of representatives present was 154, *vide* Appendix.

1. The Dewan rose and read the following English address containing a review of the financial condition of Mysore and of the important administrative and legislative measures which were engaging the consideration of Government.

GENTLEMEN,—It devolves on me, to lay before you, by command of His Highness the Maharaja, at this the third Annual Assembly of the Representatives of the people, a brief statement of the proceedings of the Government during the past year, together with a short summary of what is being done in the current year. I wish most sincerely that the task had continued in the hands of the eminent statesman who addressed you on the last occasion. I am sure you have missed his genial presence during the festivities which have just closed, and I need hardly add that you will doubly feel in this hall to-day the void which he has left. It may, however, be some small satisfaction to you to be assured that the present policy of His Highness' Government is, in the main, based on the lines so ably chalked out by him in many of his public speeches both here and elsewhere; and I have no doubt that the great example which he has set us in his unwearied solicitude for the welfare of the people will long continue to encourage us in the discharge of our onerous public duties.

2. Last year attention was invited to the important subject of self-government in local matters, and a scheme for such a form of Government was sketched out to you, with a promise of his further elaboration and early introduction into the Province. I shall not occupy your time by a repetition of the grounds on which the late Dewan felt sure of the advantages and eventual success of that form of Government. It will suffice to say that His Highness' Government has had no reason to change that opinion, and I have accordingly, with the sanction of the Maharaja, drafted a regulation for the administration of the Local and Irrigation Funds by Local Boards, which, with a Statement of Objects and Reasons, has already been published in the Government Gazette. This Bill, and the opinions of the chief officers of the State regarding it, will hereafter be discussed in the Council, and I commend it to your earnest study, and hope to receive your views which will be most carefully considered by the Government. I shall not stop to go over all the provisions of the Bill, as a pretty exhaustive abstract of it is given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, and its provisions have already been so fully explained to you during the past week. I must, however, draw your attention to a few points of importance on which there have been great differences of opinion. The Bill, you will observe, assumes the Taluk or the existing sub-division of a Taluk to be the unit of area for which a Local Board is to be constituted. Apprehensions are felt in some quarters as to the possibility of constituting efficient Local Boards for such small areas; but it is well known that one chief cause of the inefficiency of the present District Committees lies in the fact that their members do not possess the requisite local interest and local knowledge, and it is evident therefore, if the system is to have a fair trial, the beginning must be made with Taluk

Boards. The Government are convinced that, by careful selection in the first instance, a tolerably efficient Board can be constituted for each Taluk, and they propose not to overwhelm such Boards with work beyond their capacity, but to restrict their functions, in the first instance, to such matters as they already feel an interest in, such as elementary education, medical and other local charitable institutions, local plantations, water-supply, &c.

3. The next question of importance relates to the constitution of these Boards. The Bill provides for the due preponderance of the non-official element in them, but leaves it to Government whether to appoint the non-official members by selection from the rate-payers, or allow them to be elected by the rate-payers themselves. It also provides for either an official or an elected President. This course, let me assure you, has been most advisedly adopted in the public interest, in order to prevent failures and collapse which it is our great anxiety to avoid. Village communities have not yet recovered from the severe blow which, owing to political causes, they sustained early in the century; and administrative activities have to be revived and nurtured after a long period of disuse under an autocratic Government. Under such circumstances, it is not surprising to find the greater part of the Province unprepared at present for the elective system. I have therefore stated, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons accompanying the Bill, that the non-official members of the Taluk Boards should be appointed by Government at the first starting, the scheme of election fully provided for in the Bill being held in abeyance to be introduced at such time and under such limitations as the Government, after experience, may judge fit. How soon the elective system can be extended to any particular Taluk Board will depend upon the appreciation of its labours by the people interested; for, without such appreciation, it will not be advisable to resort to election in any case. The non-official members of the District Board, which is to be constituted for each District or sub-division of a District, will, however, all be delegates from the Taluk Boards, and it will at first be under the presidency of the District or Sub-division Officer as the case may be. These arrangements are eminently calculated to ensure success, as the Presidents in both District and Taluk Boards will bring to bear on their work their great experience of the country and its people; while the complete jurisdiction which the Boards will enjoy in the administration of their funds, and in the appointments and dismissals of their officials, will nullify any attempt on the part of the official Presidents at undue exercise of their influence in the deliberations of the Boards. The Government itself will carefully watch any small beginnings of local political life which may appear in various parts of the Province, and, with its gradual growth, withdraw the official element from the Boards.

4. One of the charges of Taluk Boards will be elementary education. I cannot lay too much stress on this most important subject. The Hobli schools have certainly proved not an adequate medium for the wide spread of elementary education. They are wanting in that popular element in their constitution and direction which alone can give them success, and I have therefore provided that the Local Boards, assisted by Village Boards, where practicable, will take entire charge of these schools, manage them with the definite funds that will be placed at their disposal, appointing and dismissing the masters at their own discretion, the Government interference being limited purely to the prescribing of the proper standard of education in them, and to providing the Boards with a good and competent staff of Inspectors. Thus organized, the Hobli schools will have all the elements necessary for their success and great usefulness.

5. Next in importance to education is the establishment of Hospitals and Dispensaries wherever the Boards may deem them required, and the formation of a body of travelling dispensers of medicine at times of cholera and other epidemics will come under their jurisdiction, and similarly, also institutions of charity, such as Chattrams and Dharmasalas. The Bill does not specifically provide for the transfer of all Government Muzarayi institutions to the Board's management, but there is provision under which this transfer can be made whenever the step is likely to be attended with advantage. I am myself of the opinion that charitable institutions, especially the feeding chattrams, would fare better under the Board's management than they now do under that of Government, and I do hope that up

der them the long standing complaint of mismanagement and speculation against these institutions will soon cease, and that the large Muzarayi expenditure under this head will be economically and usefully incurred.

6. It is proposed to entrust works of irrigation, such as tank repairs, to the District Local Boards, and as the majority of the members will belong to classes having large interests in agriculture in all parts of the District, it is hoped that all important tanks throughout the District will receive their due share of attention. In the matter of the execution of these and other works, the Boards will be given the benefit of the trained agency at the disposal of the Government, though the power of initiating works and supervising their execution will largely be in their own hands.

7. You will thus see that the Boards will possess extensive jurisdiction and great power for doing good work, having at their command the cordial help and co-operation of Government officers in every Department. Their eventual success will, of course, depend mainly upon themselves, upon their disinterested zeal and earnest study of the true interests of the public; and it is hoped that the day is not far off when we shall be able to speak of the Local Boards of Mysore with satisfaction and pride.

8. I shall now call your attention to the second Bill called the "Revenue Code Bill," also published in the Mysore Government Gazette. When it passes the Council and receives the approval of His Highness the Maharaja, the Province will, I trust, have a very valuable Code, setting at rest many important differences of opinion, and removing most of the difficulties and defects which now obstruct and mar our Revenue administration. The Bill is based mostly on the Bombay Revenue Code for the evident reason that our Survey settlement is based entirely on the Bombay system, and the provisions of the Bombay Survey Acts, now in force in Mysore, are proposed to be repealed in the Bill, which incorporates those enactments. The Bill is a pretty large one, not larger certainly than the importance of the subject would require, and I invite your opinion on it. Some of the chief subjects codified are the relation of land-lord and tenant, the rights of Government in land, and their mining rights which of late have acquired a certain amount of value, and the forest rights of the Government and occupants, upon all of which points, you will agree with me, there is at present neither a definite regulation nor a uniform practice. Nor is the Government satisfied with the present rules for the recovery of its revenue. Such rules as now exist have been so frequently varied by executive orders that precedents might be quoted on almost any side of a case, thus involving the public, and sometimes the Revenue Officers themselves, in useless litigation at great expense and delay. The rules on the subject have been now simplified, and you will find that while, on the one hand, adequate provision is made for the due collection of the public revenue, on the other, private rights of property are most carefully protected.

9. Chapter VII deserves your special study. It deals with the rights and obligations of Inamdars and their tenants. Such tenants as pay a rent assessed at the authorized rates of Government land revenue are declared to have the rights of occupants of Government land. Other tenants are allowed to acquire a right of occupancy by 12 years' continuous cultivation otherwise than under a written lease for a fixed term. It will thus be seen that a very simple solution is attempted of this much vexed question which is attracting just now such great public attention elsewhere. Such rules in the Bill are, however in strict accordance with existing usage. Tenants are protected from the capricious enhancement of rent by inamdars, and the grounds upon which, and the mode in which, rent is enhanceable, are definitely laid down. Provision is made for inamdars granting written leases and for obtaining counter parts of them from their tenants: they are required to keep the necessary village accounts and registers and deposit copies of them with the Deputy Commissioner; for, without such records, the ascertainment of the rights of tenants is a matter of very great difficulty. Where written leases have been executed, the inamdars are enabled to recover their rent through the Revenue authorities as if it were a demand for Government land revenue.

10. Another important addition to the existing law is contained in Chapter XIV which refers to the jurisdiction of Civil Courts in revenue matters. At present there is no law on this subject, and the Civil Courts are held to have jurisdiction on almost any revenue matter. The bill deals with this subject with great caution; for it excludes from the jurisdiction of Civil Courts only such matters as have immediate reference to the appointment, dismissal and remuneration of village servants, to the assessment and realization of the Government revenue, and to the protection of tenant rights.

11. The remaining provisions of the Bill are all important, but separate consideration of them here would occupy much time. I would therefore only request you to study the Bill carefully with the view of commenting on its provisions when we meet to-morrow.

12. A Municipal Regulation has also been drafted, and I expect to be able to publish it for general information next week. The constitution of Municipal Boards throughout the Province will be very much on the principles of the Local Fund Regulation. A simplification of the sources of Municipal revenue has been attempted. It is proposed in the first instance to extend the elective system to the larger Municipalities at Bangalore and Mysore.

13. I must now lay before you the financial results of the last year's administration. Excluding the Railway Loan, and the receipts from the Bangalore-Mysore Railway, the ordinary revenue during 1882—83 was Rs. 10,338,361 as follows :

					Rs.
Land Revenue	....	....	....	....	70,21,777
Excise	....	....	....	....	11,96,656
Forest	....	....	....	....	6,88,248
Stamps	....	....	....	....	4,70,621
Sayer	....	....	....	....	3,52,958
Mohatarfa	....	....	....	....	2,64,238
Law and Justice	....	....	....	....	64,054
Post Office	....	....	....	....	58,125
Registration	....	....	....	....	48,288
Amrut Mahal	....	....	....	....	41,636
Education	....	....	....	....	27,209
Salt	....	....	....	....	18,099
Public Works	....	....	....	....	10,046
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	76,426
Total Receipts.....					1,03,38,361

14. As against this, the ordinary expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,02,19,465, as follows :—

	A.			Rs.
Subsidy				24,50,000
Civil List				10,00,000
Interest on Public Debt				4,23,645
Political Pensions				67,183
Military Force				7,57,301
				46,98,121
B.				
Administration and Public Departments				1,90,246
Land Revenue Charges—				
Deputy Commissioners and Establishments				2,21,087
Assistant Commissioners and Establishments				91,210
Taluk Establishments				5,42,848
Revenue Survey				2,47,920
Inam Department				7,923
Remuneration of Village Servants				2,22,234

				Rs.
Allowance in lieu of Jaghir	....	...	....	21,600
Other items	...	...	...	29,464
Excise	...	....	...	17,038
Forest	...	....	...	1,99,193
Stamps	....	...	...	13,369
Sayer	....	....	....	15,165
Stationery and Printing	...	....	....	78,436
Amrut Mahal Department	....	...	....	1,50,260
Topographical Survey	....	....	....	81,957
				12,29,950

C.

Law and Justice including Jails	....	....	....	6,18,720
Police	....	....	....	4,43,145
Education	...	....	....	1,43,481
Muzarayi	....	....	....	2,75,995
Medical	....	....	...	1,38,680
Superannuation Pensions and Gratuities	....	....	....	2,32,418
Public Works	....	....	....	9,19,183
Post Office	...	...	...	1,43,163
Registration	...	...	...	25,369
Minor Departments	....	....	....	15,828
British Officers' furlough allowances, retiring gratuities, compensation allowances and leave and pensionary contributions				72,009
Miscellaneous Rs. 1,49,558, expenditure of the administration of the Civil and Military Station	....	....		3,63,395
				33,91,386

Grand Total.....

1,02,19,465

15. It will thus be seen that* there was at the end of the year a small surplus of Rs. 1,18,896. This, however, was only nominal, for, if the surplus revenue of the Assigned Tract (Rs. 1,81,757) be excluded from the calculation, there was what must be regarded a deficit of Rs. 62,861. This result is due partly to a falling off in receipts and partly to an increased expenditure. The decrease in income was about Rs. 3,44,000, and it is explained by the fact that the receipts for 1881-82 included certain items of an exceptional character, which cannot be regarded as normal sources of income. In that year, deposits for gold mining leases and redemption of royalty on one of them brought a revenue of nearly Rs. 1,17,000, and the stamps on such leases also contributed to a larger stamp revenue to the extent of about Rs. 29 000. Abkari receipts were swelled by the fact that the duty on previous years' excess sales, amounting to Rs. 87,000, which had been held in deposit, was credited to the accounts in that year. These facts, as well as a decrease of about Rs. 1,11,000 in the Sayer receipts from arecanut in the Kadur and Shimoga Districts, fully account for the smaller income of the past year.

16. The land revenue, as in the previous year, stands at a little more than 70 lakhs, and shows no tendency to attain to the figure at which it stood before the Famine *viz.*, 74 lakhs. The Abkari revenue, after declining to Rs. 7,80,000 in 1878-79, has gradually revived and now stands at its former figure of 12 lakhs; but the Stamp revenue is still backward by a lakh, and shows no tendency to revive. The Sayer revenue, which before the Famine stood at 6 lakhs, now stands at 3½, and though it may slightly improve in more favorable seasons by about one lakh, it cannot, for many years to come, attain to the former figure of 6 lakhs. During the past year, the arecanut crops in the Malnad portions of the Province suffered severely from "Koleroga" brought on by an excessive rainfall. The produce was considerably below the average, but fortunately for the garden owners, the article sold at nearly treble the usual price, thus fully compensating them for a smaller crop.

17. You will see that, under these circumstances, it is not safe to calculate upon a normal income of more than 104 lakhs; but the revised Budget for the

current year estimates the income at only 103½ lakhs ; because it is not anticipated that the Sayer collections on arecanut can be much above 3½ lakhs.

18. The ordinary expenditure during the past year was 102 lakhs, a lakh less than in the previous year. It includes some items of an exceptional nature amounting to over 3 lakhs, which are not likely to recur after the current year, such as the price of Amrut Mahal cattle paid to the Madras Government, the maintenance of Mysore convicts at Port Blair, &c so that our ordinary expenditure may safely be assumed to be well within 100 lakhs, if the outlay upon ordinary Public Work's be limited to 9½ lakhs as at present. Thus, it will be seen that, in ordinary years, not more than a sum of about 4 lakhs is likely to be available from the current revenue for expenditure upon Railway extension, or other important work of famine protection. But a sum of more than one lakh is not expected to be available for this purpose next year out of current year's revenue, for the revised Budget provides for a total expenditure of about 102½ lakhs including a sum of over 2½ lakhs on account of the few exceptional items already referred to, and the income is also expected to be half a lakh below the average as before explained.

19. The new Department of Amrut Mahal was formed last year. Of the 2½ lakhs of rupees which had to be paid as the price of the Amrut Mahal cattle taken over from the Madras Government Rs. 1½ lakhs have already been paid and the remainder will be paid in the current year. The working of the Department now costs about Rs. 44,000, while the receipts are estimated to amount to about Rs. 35,000 only. But under the earnest superintendence of its present head, this Department will soon be thoroughly organized in every detail, and it will then commence to yield some return for the extensive lands devoted for grazing purposes, as well as confer upon the Province important indirect advantages.

20. You are aware that considerable reductions in establishments were carried out during the past year. Their full effect can appear only in the accounts of the current year, but it is estimated that the reductions carried out last year must produce a saving of about Rs. 1,60,000 per annum in the Revenue, Judicial and Postal Departments. During the current year, all District Jails, except those at Bangalore, Shimoga and Mysore, were abolished, with a probable saving of about Rs. 8,000 per annum. The Headquarters establishments at Bangalore and the chuttrum and traveller's bungalow establishments remain to be revised, but much saving is not expected from these sources.

21. The formation of a High Court with three Judges is still in abeyance, but I hope to be able to carry it out at the beginning of next year. The measure involves an extra expenditure of Rs. 35,000 per annum. This however, will be fully met by savings to be effected by a still further reduction in the number of civil courts. The District Court at Bangalore and two of the three Subordinate Judges' Courts now existing may all be abolished on the formation of the High Court. Since the recent increase of the Munsiff's jurisdiction to Rs. 1,000, the work of the District and Subordinate Courts has very greatly decreased. Upon the formation of the High Court, therefore, arrangements could easily be made for one of the Judges of the High Court by turns doing the work of the Headquarters Civil District. A Subordinate Judge's Court for this District will be retained and the two others abolished. It may be possible to transfer it to Bangalore without inconvenience to the public, after the opening of the Railway to Tumkur. In the two other Civil Districts, the District Courts will be able to dispose of all cases above the Munsiff's jurisdiction.

22. The measures above indicated will complete the revision of Civil establishments. It commenced in 1878—79 and now shows a net annual saving of 8 lakhs of rupees.

23. The Village establishments, however, remain to be revised, not with the object of effecting any immediate reduction in the remuneration now paid to them, but for the purpose of improving their status and of avoiding in the future a needless heavy expenditure. The Survey and Settlement abolishes the levy of mirasi by Shanbhogs and Patels, and fixes their remuneration on a liberal scale. It is not desirable to alter this scale, but the remuneration according to it must be paid

not by cash payments from the Treasury which are not valued, but in the shape of emoluments from service inam lands which confer upon their holders a position and status in the eyes of village communities, and which, for that reason, are highly prized. Money remuneration has the effect of converting them into paid Government officials of the lowest rank, and of affecting their traditional influence as heads of villages. Moreover, the amount which has to be paid from the Treasury on this account is annually increasing. In 1878—79 it was Rs. 80,000. It has since gradually increased, and is now about 2½ lakhs. Unless the whole system is altered as above indicated, it may amount to nearly 7 lakhs by the time the Revenue settlement of the Province is complete. Under such circumstances the conversion of the money payments into land emoluments is a step which not be longer delayed. If carried out with proper precaution, it ought not to entail any appreciable decrease in the land revenue, for assignments of land as service inams must necessarily include a fair proportion of arable unoccupied land and will, to a large extent, be counterbalanced by increased cultivation. After careful enquiry the Government are satisfied that the measure will be received with welcome by the large body of the officers affected, and no time will be lost in carrying it into effect.

24. I now come to explain our position in regard to railways. The receipts and disbursements in the Railway Department are as follows :—

<i>Receipts.</i>		Rs.
Proceeds of the Railway Loan of 20 lakhs	...	19,56,064
Receipts from the Bangalore-Mysore line	...	2,99,983
Total Receipts...	...	22,56,047
<i>Expenditure.</i>		
On Bangalore-Mysore line, Capital	... ..	2,89,240
On Bangalore-Tiptur line Capital	... ..	8,60,128
On Bangalore-Mysore line, Revenue	... ..	1,87,569
		<u>13,37,237</u>
Balance on 31st March 1883	... ..	9,18,810

25. This balance, together with the surplus receipts of ordinary revenue, namely Rs. 1,18 896, making in all a total of about Rs. 10,36,000, is available during the current year for expenditure upon the Bangalore-Tiptur line.

26. The outlay on ordinary Public Works has been in recent years greatly curtailed in order that there might be an annual surplus available for Railway extension. In the days of our financial prosperity, the D. P. W. outlay had risen to 23 lakhs. After the famine in 1878—79, it was reduced to 18½ lakhs, and now it is limited to 9½ lakhs. It was thus possible to construct the Bangalore-Mysore line (86½ miles) almost entirely out of current revenue. It has cost 43 lakhs, and the net profit earned by it in 1882—83 was at the rate of 2.42 per cent. The present energetic Manager has been able to effect considerable reductions in the cost of working during the current year, and he is unremitting in his exertions to improve the traffic.

27. The line is still young, having been in full working order for scarcely a year and a half, but the traffic already shows signs of steady progress, as can readily be seen on an examination of the coaching and goods traffic. The receipts, exclusive of the carriage of Railway materials, are as follows :—

	Coaching Receipts.	Goods Traffic.
	Rs.	Rs.
During the 1st half of 1882, when the line was open only up to Mandya for Passenger traffic in January and February and for Goods traffic in January, February, March, April and May	79,653	17,926
During the 1st half of 1883	1,00,204	29,925
Do 2nd do 1882	1,12,901	36,640
Do do do 1883 (partly estimated)	1,20,000	40,000

28. The construction of the Bangalore-Tiptur line will be partly out of the Railway Loan of 20 lakhs and partly out of current revenue. The first section of it (Bangalore to Tumkur, 43 miles) has progressed rapidly under the Contractors, Messrs. Papanna and Arunachalam Mudaliar. Our Engineer-in-chief, with his usual untiring energy, gives his personal attention to every detail of the work, and we are therefore able to reckon upon its early and satisfactory completion. The revised estimates amount to 17 lakhs, of which 13 lakhs had been spent at close of last month. The permanent way material has been received from England; the carriage and wagon stock will shortly arrive and the Railway will be open to the public early next year.

29. On the second section, (Tumkur to Tiptur, 45 miles) the work has not yet commenced. The plans and estimates are ready. The estimates amount to 18½ lakhs, but under a system of local contracts the actual cost may not be much above 17½ lakhs. It is hoped that arrangements may be made by which this extension also can be opened for public traffic in 1885-86.

30. Surveys are in progress to connect Tiptur with Harihar on the frontier, so as to join the Southern Maharatta line with its out-let at Goa. The length roughly is 130 miles, and of this, 40 miles, viz. between Tiptur and Birur, have already been surveyed and plans completed, leaving 9 miles, which, it is hoped, may be finished before next monsoon. /

31. A short line from Mysore to Nanjangud, (14 miles) has already been surveyed. The plans and estimates are ready, and the estimate amounts to 6½ lakhs of rupees. The line is of importance as opening out the valuable State Forests on the south of Mysore, but its construction must depend upon the means hereafter available.

32. A survey is also to be carried out from a point near Dodbele on the Tumkur Railway to Hindupur, about 50 miles, to join on to a railway which is to come from Guntur through Gundacul to the southern parts of the Bellary District.

33. These proposed extensions altogether amount to a total length of about 190 miles; of this, the line of 130 miles from Tiptur to Harihar is the one which is of the greatest importance to the Province, as it secures a ready means of communication with the western coast. It is also likely to pay best, as it will tap the coffee and arecanut tracts on the west and will draw from the north a portion at least of the large traffic which, before the construction of the Madras Railway, used to pass through this Province towards Madras. This fact may probably induce capitalists in England to undertake the construction of this profitable line on their own account, without requiring any guarantees or other pecuniary aids from the State.

34. As regards the development of special industries, I confess we have not much progress to report during the past year. The prospects of gold mining continue to be uncertain though some very good quartz has been obtained from some of the Kolar mines. Messrs Wilson and Co. are continuing their operations in the Honnali Gold Fields and are sanguine of satisfactory results. A proposal for the establishment of a Paper Mill has fallen through, in spite of the liberal concessions promised by Government, because the projectors are of opinion that the undertaking is not likely to pay so well as some others. Proposals have been made for the establishment of two Cotton Mills at Bangalore, one by the firm of Messrs. Harvey and Sahbapati Mudaliar of Bellary, and the other by Messrs. Scott and Alcock of Bombay. Government have promised its support to these undertakings which must tend to a large increase of cotton cultivation in the Province, and confer other great benefits upon the people. If economically worked, they must yield large profits, but they appear at present to be somewhat embarrassed by the fact that both have been put before the public, at one and the same time, and for one and the same place. I now understand from the Secretary of the Maharaja Spinning and Manufacturing Company, that it will commence to erect the mill at Bangalore almost immediately. What is likely to be even more profitable than a Cotton Mill is a Woollen Mill. It is peculiarly suited for a large woolproducing Province like Mysore. A proposal for such a mill is

now before the Government, which will give it such support as had before been promised to the projectors on account of the proposed Paper Mill.

35. The silk industry is showing signs of a steady revival, and arrangements are in progress for the importation and distribution of suitable descriptions of silkworm. To persons desiring to start this industry on a large scale, Government will be prepared to grant the lands required for mulberry cultivation on favourable assessment for a term of years.

36. Experiments are also being made with the view of importing some specimens of wild silk from Assam and elsewhere. As far as we are now able to judge, one specimen imported from Assam namely, the Eria silkworm (*Attacus Ricini*) which is reared upon the leaves of the castor-oil plant so extensively grown in the Province, appears to be peculiarly suited to our purpose. It is a hardy species, and the produce is considerable. Specimens of it will be exhibited to you before you leave Mysore.

37. It now only remains for me to add that, of the several important matters discussed in this Assembly last year, such of them as involve questions of principle have been disposed of in the Land Revenue Bill already referred to. On others requiring information as to local details, such as the revival of Kumri cultivation and the reduction of garden assessment, the opinion of local officers supported by facts and figures, have been obtained, and we are now in a position to discuss them when we meet to-morrow.

38. Before concluding, Gentlemen, it is my pleasing duty, by command of His Highness the Maharaja, to congratulate you, as the representatives of the people, upon the cheerful agricultural prospects of the year, which, after a period of intense suspense and anxiety, have now happily revived with the recent fall of rain throughout the Province.

